In The Claims

Claims 1. - 42.   Cancelled

Claims 43. - 53.   Cancelled

54.   (Previously Presented) A component assembly comprising a fastener element in combination with a sheet metal panel having a thickness, said fastener element comprising a body part having first and second axial ends, said first axial end having a conical region with an at least substantially conical panel engaging surface, a generally cylindrical portion and a free end face, said conical region having a larger diameter end and a smaller diameter end, said generally cylindrical portion adjoining said larger diameter end and said free end face being provided at said generally cylindrical portion at an end thereof spaced from said conical region, said generally cylindrical portion being dimensioned to have a diameter at a position adjoining said larger diameter end that is no larger than said larger diameter end such that it does not form a ring flange at said larger diameter end, and said second axial end comprising a hollow cylindrical rivet section provided adjacent said smaller diameter end and having a cylindrical outer surface and an internal cylindrical bore with an internal diameter, said fastener element further comprising one of a threaded shaft protruding from said first axial end in a direction away from said cylindrical rivet section and a threaded bore extending within said first axial end and having a maximum thread diameter smaller than said internal diameter, said sheet metal panel having a conical boss with a conical recess having an internal conical surface contacting said conical surface of said fastener element at least substantially over a full area of said conical surface, said conical region has an axial length corresponding to at least approximately twice said sheet metal thickness and said conical boss having a rim at an aperture at a smaller diameter

end of said conical boss, said rim being received in a ring recess formed in said cylindrical rivet section by radially outward deformation of said cylindrical rivet section.

55.   (Previously Presented) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein features providing security against rotation are provided at said conical surface and sheet material of said sheet metal part in said conical recess engages in form-fitted manner with said features providing security against rotation.

56.   Cancelled

57.   (Previously Presented) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said conical region has an axial length corresponding to at least four times said sheet metal thickness.

58.   (Previously Presented) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said conical surface of said conical region of said fastener and said conical surface of said conical recess have an included cone angle (α) in the range between 60° and 150°.

59.   (Previously Presented) A component assembly in accordance with claim 58, wherein said included cone angle (α) amounts to approximately 90°.

60.   (Previously Presented) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said conical region merges via a cylindrical neck part into said cylindrical rivet section and said cylindrical neck part has an axial length which corresponds at least approximately to said sheet metal thickness.

61.   (Previously Presented) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said ring recess is defined at a radially outer side by displacement of material of said cylindrical rivet section (20).

62.   (Previously Presented) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said ring recess is formed by beading over of said cylindrical rivet section around a rim of an aperture formed by said smaller diameter end of said conical recess of said sheet metal part.

63.   Cancelled

64.   (Previously Presented) A component assembly in accordance with claim 54, wherein said fastener element is a bolt element having a shaft part with a thread which projects from said free end face, away from said larger diameter end of said conical region.

65.   Cancelled